

*Overwood
8-7-89*

Steven French,
5444, Rutherglenn,
Houston, TX 77096
USA.

21/6/89

Dear Michael,

Just a quick note to let you know that my job search is finally over. I've accepted a tenure-track position in the philosophy dept. of Southeast Missouri State University. It's not particularly well known but the people seem competent and friendly, which is a big plus in my book ! The course load is quite heavy - 12 hours a week, but only three 'preparations'. Two courses are on introductory symbolic logic and there's extensive use of the computer programme 'Logicworks' for homework and tests, so it should be fairly easy. The other course is 'Readings in Philosophy', which is basically 'Plato to Marx in 15 weeks' and should be pretty straightforward. However, in the spring I'll be dropping that and giving my all new 'Rationality and the Human Endeavour', which I'll be preparing during the autumn and which I'm quite excited about. I'm also hoping to give some courses in philosophy of science sometime in the future.

The university is situated in Cape Girardeau, a pleasant little town on the banks of the Mississippi. It's not far from the Ozark mountains and the whole area is quite pretty. Billed as 'the biggest town between St. Louis and Memphis' (but then there's not a lot between St. Louis and Memphis !) it seemed a nice place to settle down in and bring up a family.

Dena is very excited about moving up there and is hoping to continue her studies in English Literature and Womens Studies. The university has been very helpful as regards sending information about the place and it looks like we'll be renting the house of a couple on sabbatical for the first two years. So everything is working out quite nicely.

I was interviewed for the job in San Francisco and then offered it at the meeting in Chicago. My paper received a rather mixed reception but some people seemed to like it, including Ron Giere. I also had the very pleasant experience of meeting Jim Cushing again and I went out to lunch with him, Arthue Fine and Giere (I just reviewed his book

for the American Journal of Physics). I bought a copy of the book he edited with McMullin, 'Philosophical Consequences of Quantum Theory', and although I've only had a chance to glance through it there seems to be a nice selection of papers.

I'm still teaching English as a Second Language in the Refugee Programme and I now have two classes, one in the morning and one in the evening, both four days a week. It's great fun and I'm really enjoying it but it's quite tiring. Last night I took my students on a 'field trip' to a local 'international' supermarket to practice their 'shopping competencies'. It was a lot of fun and I availed myself of the opportunity to buy some fine English marmalade which is quite hard to come by here !

Unfortunately Dena hasn't been able to find much temporary work here and she's also been ill with 'shingles', which is very painful. However she's keeping busy with her book discussion group and planning the move to Missouri.

I've just finished working on a couple of papers with da Costa on inconsistency, one of which has been provisionally accepted for publication in the American Philosophical Quarterly. However, after meeting Cushing and Fine and attending talks by Nancy Cartwright, Jon Jarrett et. al., I'm ready to move back towards QM and develop some ideas on individuality, metaphysics and explanation. I'm thinking in terms of a response to van Fraassen and Fine through the heady combination of Teller, Shimony and Korner !

I heard that Simon has accepted a one-year position in Jerusalem, which is very good news. Please give him, Harvey, Jeremy Butterfield and John Lucas my regards when you see them.

Best wishes,

Steven

PS. As from August 3rd my address will be :

Dept. of Philosophy and Religion,
Southeast Missouri State University,
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701-4799

Balliol 271502 (N-5)
Peter Gibbins
Gibbins at UK. Ac. changed. as
0908-569333

150
6 meetings
a year.